

OTHER NOTICES

Bartholomew, G. W. *Legal Implications of Artificial Insemination*. Reprinted from *The Modern Law Review*, May 1958. Pp. 236-258.

MR. G. W. BARTHOLOMEW'S pamphlet *Legal Implications of Artificial Insemination* mentions several cases on the subject which have occurred in other countries and a number of English cases on related questions, but there is a remarkable dearth of English cases on the subject. It does not seem, however, that there is much doubt as to the law. To suggest that A.I.D. constitutes adultery is, as stated by Lord Merriman the President of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division, nonsense. The production of a child by A.I.D. or even by A.I.H. does not constitute consummation of the marriage, though it will depend on the exact facts of the case, whether it amounts to approbation of the marriage by the wife, so as to furnish a defence to a petition for nullity. There can be no question that a child produced by A.I.H. is legitimate; whereas a child produced by A.I.D. is illegitimate, since it is not the child of its mother's husband, and a married couple cannot in English law legitimize a child merely by treating it as their own. In many cases, however, it might be difficult to prove as a fact that a child, born to a woman living with her husband, had been produced by A.I.D.

CECIL BINNEY

Die gesunde Familie in ethischer, sexualwissenschaftlicher und psychologischer Sicht: Vorträge, gehalten auf dem Internationalen Kongress der I P P F in Berlin 1957. Stuttgart, 1958. Ferdinand Enke. Pp. viii + 162. Price DM. 14.80.

THIS IS THE only publication of the proceedings of the International Planned Parenthood Federation Congress in Berlin in 1957. It was compiled by Professor Hans Harmsen, who contributes a foreword, and is entirely in the German language, being Part 13 of *Beiträge zur Sexualforschung* which is the official organ of the German Society for Sex Research—Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sexualforschung.

The papers are divided into four sections—Marriage, Adolescence, Infertility and Abortion, and Family Planning. The English contributors,

whose papers are translated into German, are Cyril Bibby, C. P. Blacker, E. F. Griffith and Margaret Jackson; others writers include representatives of Austria, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

Meier, Richard L. *Science and Economic Development: New Patterns of Living*. New York, 1956. Technology Press of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and John Wiley. (London, Chapman and Hall). Pp. xviii + 266. Price 48s.

DR. MEIER is an American scientist of eminence and great breadth of interest. His book is fascinating in the variety of ideas, themes and facts which it lays before the reader in traversing the population-resources complex.

The last words of Cecil Rhodes were, reputedly, "how little done, how much to do" which, in parody and in reference to this book, might be changed to "how little time, how many words". Dr. Meier's book is likely to be most useful for purposes of reference. The immediate eugenic interest is slight.

G. C. L. B.

Philosophical Society of Sudan. *The Population of Sudan. Report on the Sixth Annual Conference held in the University of Khartoum 16th and 17th January, 1958*. Khartoum, 1958. Philosophical Society of Sudan in conjunction with the Department of Statistics. Pp. 110. Price 16s. 6d.

THIS VOLUME is very attractively produced, with a handsome coloured cover and many maps and photographs. It communicates a warm enthusiasm for things Sudanese and things demographic. It is not afraid to start from fundamentals, such as "What is the use of the First Population Census?", a question that no doubt was asked many times over during the course of the recent enumeration. In his answer Mr. C. H. Harvie, Director of Statistics, gives reasons that are quite advanced for an under-developed country; the Sudanese certainly appear fortunate in their administrators.

Besides a number of technical written contributions, the Conference included some more general lectures, including a Demographic

Survey of Sudan by the Census Controller, Mr. K. J. Krótki and an account of the country's Labour Force by Professor S. D. Fawzi. As might be expected, vital statistics are unsatisfactory at present, birth and death registration being only twenty per cent complete, but there appears to be no suggestion in the volume that the 1956 Census was materially inaccurate, in spite of the many difficulties that were expected when it was first planned.*

P. R. C.

Stengel, E. and Cook, Nancy G. *Attempted Suicide: Its social significance and effects.* Maudsley Monographs Number 4. London, 1958. Chapman and Hall for the Institute of Psychiatry. Pp. 136. Price 25s.

THE MOST valuable contribution which this work makes to the subject seems to be the detection and separation of attempted suicide from suicide. Too frequently in the past an attempted suicide has simply been assumed to be a suicide that failed. In this work, however, the authors insist that the behaviour pattern of the "attempted suicide" is often quite distinct from actual ("successful") suicide.

The degree of dangerousness of the action taken and the strength of the intention must be carefully weighed together with an examination of the motivating reasons as given by the patient. These will include—together with a real or supposed desire to die—the wish to frighten others, the intention of forcing others to act in a manner in conformity with the victim's wishes, the appeal for help, the urge to challenge fate in the sense of submitting to an "ordeal". This latter was well expressed by one patient as a compelling "desire to find out whether it was God's will that he should live or die".

It is stated that suicide and attempts thereat has ceased to be a criminal offence in Europe (p. 123) and it is interesting to speculate how far the English law is responsible for the comparatively low rate of "successful" suicides in this country. Even so the number is always around 5,000 per annum and—incidentally—usually a few hundreds more than the much

advertised deaths in motor accidents (*vide Whitaker* 1958 edn. p. 593).

The work is liberally provided with tables and statistics—which cause many a break in the train of thought; some might profitably have been relegated to an appendix, to be sought if required, but this is merely a personal preference.

Without doubt the authors are to be thanked and congratulated for pointing out an important distinction which, although previously recognized, has not received the attention and investigation that it deserved.

C. W. USHER

Storer, Tracy I. and Usinger, Robert L. *Laboratory Manual for Zoology.* Third Edition. London, 1958. McGraw-Hill. Pp. x + 181. Price 29s.

THIS IS A well-tryed practical course in Zoology for first year University students written primarily for colleges in the United States. It must be stressed that it is intended as a supplementary volume to *General Zoology* and *Elements of Zoology* by the same authors: on that account there are no figures, but only page references to figures in the main textbooks. There are a sufficient number of exercises for about forty practical periods of two hours. The frog is taken as the type for introduction to the main systems of the body, and one exercise is devoted to each of the main invertebrate phyla of the animal kingdom, except that four are given for the insects and four for the protozoa. In addition to this traditional subject-matter a wide range of topics is covered, for example there is sufficient general physiology of cells and tissues for about four practicals and a total of rather more on embryology, heredity, adaptation and ecology. The emphasis throughout is on the study of the living animal and on the experimental approach, even though usually only the most elementary observations can be fitted in to the available time or are suitable for large classes. There is a general bias towards vertebrate and especially human physiology. This is understandable for two reasons, firstly the material is already at hand—the students experiment on themselves, and secondly elementary zoology courses are an essential preliminary for medical studies in many parts of the world. There is no doubt that this

* See page 39 of the April 1957 issue of the REVIEW.

emphasis on the vertebrate gives a biased impression of the diversity of nature, particularly in comparative physiology. The variety of structure among the invertebrates soon becomes apparent but the student remains with the impression that, for example, the main human sensory modalities, the properties of the frog gastrocnemius muscle and extra-cellular digestion (to take only a few instances) are more widespread than in fact is the case in the other animals studied.

The usefulness of this book is therefore circumscribed for several reasons. However, within the limits set by the type of course, the plan as an appendix for a separate textbook, the regional availability of some of the material and the absence of diagrams, there is no doubt that here is a successful, well proportioned set of zoology practical sheets which are in regular use in many colleges in the United States. Those responsible for practical classes elsewhere would no doubt find therein a large number of ideas.

ADRIAN HORRIDGE

World Health Organization. *Mental Health Aspects of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy: Report of a Study Group.* Technical Report Series No. 151. Geneva, 1958. W.H.O. Pp. 53. Price 3s. 6d. Available from H.M. Stationery Office.

THIS IS A REPORT on the findings of an international group of experts, specialists in psychiatry, atomic and radiation medicine, public health, social anthropology, and scientific journalism.

After discussing the challenge presented to humanity by the advent of atomic power, the report examines a question on which little information as yet exists—the possible pathogenic

effects of radiation on brain function. There follow expressions of opinion on the socio-economic impact of atomic energy on mental health and on the dangers inherent in the social disorganization which might arise as a result of “the second industrial revolution”. The attitudes to atomic energy of public, press, scientists and authorities are then discussed.

The final chapter sets forth a draft plan for the education of the community in atomic energy matters, so as to secure a balanced acceptance of new developments and makes specific suggestions regarding the work to be done in connection with mental health and the siting of atomic installations, the production of atomic power, and the medical use of radiations.

Wright, Helena. *Birth Control: Advice on Family Spacing and Healthy Sex Life.* Fifth Edition. London, 1958. Cassell. Pp. 76. Price 3s. 6d.

IT IS PLEASANT to record a new edition (the fifth) of this useful and practical booklet which was first published in 1935.

Dr. Helena Wright has now added a short account of the growth of the Family Planning Association, which, as the National Birth Control Association, was only five years old when this book first appeared; she also describes the expansion of the International Planned Parenthood Federation since its formation, which followed on the findings of a conference on Population and World Resources in Relation to the Family at Cheltenham in 1948.

The fact that Dr. Wright's book is still in demand is sufficient indication of its value to the children of those young people for whom it was first written.